



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Ministry of Jesus” – Matthew 12:15-21**

Date: **March 1, 2020**

In last week’s text, Jesus demonstrated his supremacy over the Pharisees when he healed a man with a withered hand. We saw that, unlike the Pharisees, he is the Good Shepherd that takes care of his sheep. In verse 14, we found out that the Pharisees, threatened by Jesus’ ministry, “conspired against him, how to destroy him.” This week’s text picks up where we left off. Jesus, in his omniscience, was aware of this and so he withdrew from the synagogue and the Pharisees. Many followed him. He continued to heal them all and he told them not to make him known. We find out that this was done in order to fulfill prophecies told long ago by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 42:1-4 is quoted in verses 19-21. This is the longest Old Testament quotation found in the book of Matthew. This prophecy identifies Christ as the suffering servant of Isaiah, whose mission it is to bring justice and mercy to the nations. Ultimately, his mission will end in victory. One day all ethnicities will hope in him.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 12:15-21 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. What does Jesus do in the beginning of verse 15? What do we learn from his example?
 - b. Many follow Jesus and are healed by him (v. 15). Why does Jesus order them not to make him known (v. 16)?
 - c. Explain how the Trinity is put on display in verse 18. What role does each Person of the Trinity play in this verse?
 - d. What was the content of Christ’s preaching according to the end of verse 18? How would you define the ‘justice’ that Christ proclaimed?
 - e. Who does Jesus proclaim justice to (v. 18)? What is the significance of this?
 - f. What does verse 19 teach us about Jesus?



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- g. Explain what is meant by the phrase: “a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench,” (v. 20).
- h. What are we told about the fulfillment of Christ’s mission in verses 20-21?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What different things do we learn about Jesus in this text? Which truth stood out to you the most as you studied this text? Why?
3. Some today believe that Jesus came to solely preach a message of unconditional love. According to this text, what was the content of Jesus’ preaching? How can we follow his example in this area as we seek to proclaim the gospel to others?
4. What does verse 20 teach us about Christ’s disposition toward those who are broken and humble? How does this truth comfort and encourage you?
5. How would you describe Christ’s mission? How can we take part in his mission in our family? In our church? In the world?
6. We are promised that Christ’s mission will end in victory. How does this give us confidence as we seek to follow Christ’s example and fulfill the mission?

Church-Wide Prayer Requests to Pray for this Week

- Pray for the Lord of the harvest to raise up more elders to shepherd the church
- Pray for God to continue to provide the funds and labour needed for our Cultivate Rehoboth project